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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

11 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact Report of Meeting with Joseph Le SAWYER

1. On 3 June the undersigned, introduced by [ ] as [ ] met Joseph Le SAWYER, who agreed to serve as a "character reference" to backstop the AECASSOWARY New York office's fund raising efforts. During lunch conversation stuck to Le SAWYER's opinions on various Ukrainian emigre organizations. After lunch [ ] excused herself to return to her office. The undersigned and Le SAWYER took a taxi to [ ] apartment in order to insure privacy during the subsequent discussion. The proposal for Le SAWYER to help was first expressed as a hypothetical question: Since some Ukrainian organizations try to solicit funds and since many American industrialists will not donate funds until they have been sure that "Washington" has no objections to the soliciting organization, would you, Mr. Le SAWYER, be willing to have your name used as a reference which soliciting organizations could use? Le SAWYER replied that in principle he would be willing to do this, adding that he was quite familiar with the habit of American capitalists of phoning some crony in Washington to find out if a given emigre organization was a worthy cause. He agreed with the undersigned that most officials in Washington prefer not to give their moral sanction to contributions to organizations about which they know very little if anything.

2. Le SAWYER asked if he would be expected to go out and solicit funds himself for the organizations we had in mind. The undersigned replied in the negative. As an American of Ukrainian descent and Vice-President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee, we felt that Le SAWYER would be an ideal person to reassure businessmen that Washington approved of the organizations in question. The undersigned said that he realized that an unscrupulous emigre group could use such Washington backing to help itself accrue more power among emigre groups. It was not, however, CIA's purpose to help any group win political battles with other emigre organizations; the purpose is to help the soliciting group have some character reference whose name they can use if a prospective donor wants to reassure himself that their request for funds is bona fide.

3. Le SAWYER asked if the organization or organizations in question were tax-exempt so that contributions made to them would be tax deductible. The undersigned said that the one organization we had in mind was indeed a non-profit, tax-exempt group. Le SAWYER felt that this feature would be of aid to such a group in soliciting contributions.

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4. Once the AECASSOWARY group was named specifically to Le SAWYER, he said that he had no particular objections to that group and agreed with the undersigned's statement that the AECASSOWARIES represented a more level-headed political group than all others. He agreed also that the AECASSOWARIES had the cream of Ukrainian emigre intellectuals and writers working for them and that they were not so hard-headed, untractable and emotional as many other emigre groups. He agreed further that it would be wise for the undersigned, himself and AECASSOWARY 2 to have a conversation in New York.

5. Le SAWYER asked why CIA did not also consider aiding in some way the Ukrainian Congress Committee and Ukrainian charitable organizations here in the United States. The undersigned replied that while the American Government has a favorable opinion of the UCC's work among Ukrainians resident in the United States, the CIA and the Department of State were primarily interested in organizations whose focus of activity and whose audiences were outside the United States. This was particularly true since CIA as an Executive Agency could not properly use the time of its personnel to influence American public opinion. CIA felt that the AECASSOWARIES have been sufficiently successful on their own hook in influencing public opinion in the Free World and behind the Iron Curtain that they should be given every opportunity legally open to them to collect donations in the United States so that they could expand their informational work.

6. Throughout the meeting the undersigned made certain that Le SAWYER understood that he was not being pressured into any unacceptable activity. Le SAWYER was told that he need not decide immediately whether or not he would irrevocably accept CIA's proposal. He was invited to think it over and discuss his views on the proposal with the undersigned in New York some time during June.

7. Le SAWYER said that he thought it would be no problem to indicate to prospective donors that the AECASSOWARIES are indeed a bona fide organization upon which the U.S. Government looks with some favor. He said that the mere fact that the Internal Revenue Service has allowed the AECASSOWARIES to incorporate as a non-profit organization will be in itself ample proof to most prospective donors that the organization is above-board, ethical, and not working at cross purposes with the United States Government.

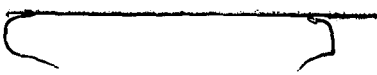
8. It was stressed to Le SAWYER that he had been picked for this proposed job because of his good reputation for discretion and security consciousness. He was also told that under no circumstances should CIA's name ever be referred to in connection with the AECASSOWARIES and that the subject of Le SAWYER's visit to Washington must remain a secret between Le SAWYER and pertinent members of CIA. He said he understood the need for security and promised to keep his mouth shut. He asked if the undersigned expected him to take any action immediately. To this the undersigned replied, "No, just think over the proposal and we can discuss it again when I am in New York, perhaps with AECASSOWARY 2 if you feel that is appropriate. Since you have

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said that AECASSOWARY 2 told you to expect to be contacted by someone in Washington, you may if you choose indicate to him that you were indeed contacted by a man in Washington." Le SAWYER asked if Dr. Lev DOERIANSEY could be cut in on this matter (DOERIANSEY is Le SAWYER's superior within the UCC). The undersigned said that this would probably not be a good idea at the present time. The undersigned added that this was not to be interpreted as any disapproval of DOERIANSEY or DOERIANSEY's activities but merely a normal precaution to limit a secret arrangement to the smallest possible number of people.



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